

# National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group

3833 South Development Avenue; Boise, ID 83705

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NMAC Memorandum 2021-17

June 29, 2021

To: Geographic Area Coordinating Group Chairs

From: National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group

Subject: Use of Contractors to Provide Surge Capacity for National Infrared Operations (NIROPS), and New Fire Imaging

For the remainder of 2021, the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC) may be using private contractors to provide surge capacity for new fire imaging and large fire National (NIROPS) mapping under an end-product basic ordering agreement. The Forest Service has awarded a national infrared mapping end-product agreement to seven contractors to provide new fire imaging and mapping, and to support NIROPS in large fire mapping.

End-product agreements differ from a flight services contract in that the requesting agency is only procuring map products and Geographic Information System (GIS) ready shapefiles of wildland fires; no internal operational controls from the requesting agency will apply. Participation by agency employees is limited to mission tasking, quality assurance, and contract administration.

## Operational Parameters

The NICC in coordination with NIROPS will execute mission tasking. The Forest Service is responsible for product quality assurance and contract administration.

- All flights will occur above the incident's Temporary Flight Restriction, at or above 6000 feet above ground.
- Contractors are required to abide by federal and state aviation regulations to fly in the national airspace.
- Contractors are operating sensors that meet agency requirements for accuracy, resolution, and detection.
- Contractors performing NIROPS support are required to produce map products with GIS ready shapefiles to the NIROPS Infrared Interpreter standards.
- Map products and shapefiles will be posted to the NIFC-FTP site under the incident's IR folder prior to 0400 hours for all NIROPS support products.
- New fire imaging and mapping missions – contractors are required to produce ignition verification in real-time (10 mins from acquisition) to the designated government point of contact via radio, text, email, voice, or similar means.
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- New fire imaging and mapping missions – details to include lat/long, estimated size, character of fire, fuel type adjacent fuels, aspect and elevation, position on slope, proximity to roads (if any), proximity to values (structures, communication towers, highways, etc.), IR and color imagery, and for ignitions greater than 10 acres a KML/KMZ or perimeter and Geo-Pdf map.



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## Ordering Procedures

- All requests for NIROPS support are to follow the standard procedure outlined on the NIROPS website at: <https://fsapps.nwcg.gov/nirops/users/login>
- If agency aircraft are unavailable or the requests exceeds capacity, the mission(s) will be tasked to a contractor.
- If a contractor is assigned, an infrared interpreter (IRIN) is not needed as contractors are required to provide their own interpretation and deliverables.
- To maximize efficiencies, contractors will typically be assigned to incidents that are in close proximity to other incidents that require mapping (i.e., <500 miles apart).
- For all new fire mapping missions, a request will be submitted through an [IAA Imagery Request](#) form, by 1500 MDT. If needed additional requests can be submitted at any time during the operational period.
  - Requests will be reviewed by a collection manager at the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC). A collection manager may also be established out of a Geographic Area Coordination Center (GACC) if needed.
    - The collection manager will determine the appropriate asset to meet the request and determine if the asset is available.
    - The collection manager will contact the requesting unit and NICC to advise of availability.
    - Requesting unit will submit a resource order for “Service – Infrared” with “New ignition imaging and mapping” in special needs.
    - NICC will fill the order in IROC and send it to the vendor.

For additional information, questions, or issues regarding quality or delivery of products, please contact: Tom Mellin, National Infrared Program Manager, 505-301-8167, [Thomas.mellin@usda.gov](mailto:Thomas.mellin@usda.gov); or Billy Gardunio, Acting National Fire Imaging Program Manager, WO-FAM, 530-604-8643, [billy.gardunio@usda.gov](mailto:billy.gardunio@usda.gov).

/s/ Joshua Simmons Chair, NMAC

